

Fresh Ideas, Shared Experiences, New Partnerships

Honoring 12 Exceptional Mentor-Protégé Teams

SYLWIA GASIOREK-NELSON

Teams of Department of Defense prime contractors and their protégés from Small, Disadvantaged Businesses (SDB) were honored with the Nunn-Perry Award during the annual DoD Mentor-Protégé Conference, held March 17-19 in Crystal City, Va.

Presenting the awards this year were Frank Ramos, Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization; H. C. "Barney" Barnum Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Reserve Affairs); George T. Schultz, DoD Mentor-Protégé Program Manager; and retired Korean War Veteran, Army Cpl. Rodolfo "Rudy" P. Hernandez.

Emphasizing the importance of DoD's Mentor-Protégé Program, Schultz said, "We are here to celebrate the success of a proven program, recognize mentors and protégés, and witness the growth of significant partnerships—all made possible by the DoD Mentor-Protégé Program. The success of the program continues to accrue through the energies of good people building strong mentors and protégés under the auspices of the Department of Defense. I take this opportunity to salute all of you."

In his keynote speech, Barnum recognized the significance of teamwork. "Those in corporate America are helping so the job will be done. And only together as teams—not as superstars, but as teams—we're all being successful," he said.

Frank Ramos, Director, Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization, delivers closing remarks.



Keynote speaker, H.C. "Barney" Barnum Jr., Deputy Assistant of the Secretary of the Navy (Reserve Affairs).

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Comparing corporate leadership to the Marine Corps, Barnum said that it's like taking care of the troops, guiding the men and women to realize mission accomplishment, bringing out the best in them, assisting them in setting their goals—goals important for the whole team.

The results of leadership and mentoring, he added, are equal. "That's what this Mentor-Protégé program is all about—helping people to prepare for the many responsibilities they'll assume as they progress in their careers."

Commending this year's award winners, Barnum said, "I congratulate all those who are being recognized this morning for their drive, determination, and enthusiasm, which has resulted in realizing mission accomplishment. The partnership between the mentors and

winners today have become the flagship award winners of the year."

Expressing gratitude to all who supported the program, Ramos emphasized that the challenge today is to develop stronger and more versatile protégés in order to meet the needs of the Department of Defense. "Thank you for your program support, which we will need on a continuing basis. Congratulations to all of the winning teams," he said.

And the Award Goes to ...

The recipients of the Nunn-Perry Award were selected based on each mentor-protégé team's success in achieving cost-efficiencies, enhancing each protégé's technical capabilities, and increasing prime contracting and subcontracting awards to SDBs. This year's winners:

- Government Solutions, Inc. Terradigm, Inc.
- Earth Tech, Inc.—Bhate Environmental Associates, Inc.
- Electronic Data Systems—Force 3, Inc.
- HydroGeoLogic, Inc.—MicroPact Engineering, Inc.
- Manufacturing Technology, Inc.—General Precision Manufacturing Inc.
- Q.E.D. System, Inc.—LPI Technical Services
- Raytheon Missile Systems—The ENSER Corporation
- Science Applications International Corporation—Command Technologies, Inc.
- Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure—Advent Environmental, Inc.
- Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc.—EM Federal Corporation
- Hamilton Sundstrand Corporation—Aimco Precision, Inc.
- Northrop Grumman Space Technology—Upper Mohawk, Inc.

Nunn-Perry Award

The Nunn-Perry Award is named in honor of both former Senator Sam Nunn, who sponsored legislation to create the Defense Department's Mentor-Protégé Program, and former Secretary

of Defense William Perry in recognition of his implementation of the program.

This award recognizes mentor-protégé teams that have excelled in technical developments, cost efficiencies, and increased business opportunities for SDBs.

The DoD's Mentor-Protégé Program, which began in 1991, is a national initiative to encourage large defense contractors to develop the technical capabilities of SDBs. It also qualifies

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George Schultz, DoD Mentor-Protégé Program Manager, delivers welcoming remarks.

protégés," he emphasized, "has truly produced powerful, beneficial, and rewarding results."

Concluding the ceremony Ramos said, "I'm pleased to report that our Mentor-Protégé program has become the flagship small business program within the Federal Government and that our award

organizations employing the severely disabled to compete more effectively for defense-related work.

Editor's Note: To learn more about the Mentor-Protégé program, visit the DoD Mentor-Protégé Program Web site at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu/programs/index.htm>.